FILE 02

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP
SHATTER
FUCK!
PLEASE TELL ME THAT THING WAS CHEAP!
CRAP!!! That's it today!

FEH!
JUST SWEEP IT UNDER THE COUNTER.
THAT'S WHAT I DO.
GOOD CALL, SHORT STUFF!
SKRATCH
Hmmm
HEY! UM
DONTCHA HAVE SCHOOL NOW OR SOMETHING?
HOW COME YA STUCK WORKING IN THIS DUSTY OLD SHOP?
SKRATCH SKRATCH
WHY DON'T YOUR FOLKS COME DRAG YOUR BUTT OUTTA HERE?

MY 'FOLKS' ARE OUT TRAVELING AROUND AFRICA DOING MEDICAL RESEARCH.
AND SINCE I'VE GOT LIKE OVER 300 YEARS OF WORK EXPERIENCE, I DON'T NEED TO GO TO SCHOOL.
Skrat Skratch
heh
SIMON LET'S ME DO WHATEVER I WANT
300 YEARS, HUH?
YEAH, SURE, WHATEVER
Wow! Another Texas size whopper! Talk about the brat who cried wolf!!
YOU KNOW, SHORT STUFF, ONE THING I CAN'T STAND MOST OF ALL IS A LIAR
WHEN KIDS KEEP SPREADING LIES, ESPECIALLY ABOUT MY BROTHER, I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW PISSED THAT GETS ME
hm

I COULD BASH YOUR LITTLE BEAING IN IF YOU LIE TO ME ABOUT SIMON
AND WITH ME, I NEVER LIE
I KNOW I CAN TELL WHEN PEOPLE LIE
YOU'D REALLY TRY TO KILL ME IF I HURT HIM I CAN TELL... YOU'VE DONE IT BEFORE
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR VERY FIRST FAMILY WAS BROKEN, RIGHT?
SOK
DID YOU KNOW SIMON STUDIED FAMILY LAW? MAYBE IN HIS OWN FUTILE WAY HE WAS TRYING TO SAVE YOU
OR MAYBE HE DID IT TO SAVE ME INSTEAD

YOU NASTY LITTLE FREAK! I'LL FREAKIN PULL THAT TONGUE OUTTA YOUR MOUTH!
GET BACK HERE!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
NO
NO
COME NEAR ME AGAIN AND I'LL TELL SIMON EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU

AND I MEAN EVERYTHING!
GIRL
MARI...?
IT'S ALL BETTER SO PLEASE...
Ka Ka
PLEASE STOP!
Ku Ku
MIA?
TAH!

HA-HA! I'M SORRY, MY LINE OF WORK FORCES ME TO TREAD LIGHTLY
YOU- YOU WERE SO QUIET!
PUH!
MIND IF I SIT?
THAT'S CORRECT! DR. ADLER'S ETHICS COURSE, FIRST WEEK.
WHAT ...?
WAIT! I REMEMBER THAT ONE! IT'S POE, RIGHT? 'THAT MERCY I TO OTHERS SHOW, THAT MERCY SHOW TO ME.'
TEACH ME TO FEEL ANOTHER'S WOE, TO HIDE THE FAULT I SEE...
I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR FINDING HER AND CALLING THE POLICE.
DR. ADLER IS DOING FINE AND DINING ON LIME JELLO AS WE SPEAK.
DR. ADLER!? IS SHE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT? DO YOU KNOW-

IF YOU HADN'T BEEN THERE TRYING TO STOP IT-
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
TRYING TO STOP WHAT?!
SOMETHING WAS AFTER HER I SUSPECT IT'S THE SAME THING THAT'S HAUNTING YOU
YOU CAME TO SUTTON HALL LAST NIGHT TO WARN DR ADLER ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN
NO! YOU'RE WRONG! I-I JUST NEEDED TO TALK WITH DR ADLER
IT'S PERSONAL

I KNOW YOU WERE ASKING DR. ADLER FOR LEGAL ADVICE...
...!?
SHE-SHE TOLD YOU, DIDN'T SHE!
STEE... EE
OH MY GOD! NO ONE ELSE IS SUPPOSED TO KNOW!
MIA, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF...
HUU! IF YOU KNOW, THEN
ha!
ha!
WHO ELSE DID SHE TELL!?

Sigh
YOU'RE NOT DOING YOURSELF ANY FAVORS BY HIDING THE TRUTH YOU BECOME YOUR OWN DUNGEON
FRED- DR. ADLER TOLD ONLY ME...
Tremble
NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, NOT ANY-MORE!
THINGS ARE BETTER NOW...
Shake
Ah
BUT DR. ADLER WOULDN'T LET IT GO SHE THOUGHT I WAS COVERING FOR JOEL.
SHE WOULDN'T LET HIM INTO HER OFFICE WHENEVER HE CAME TO PICK ME UP
IT GOT SO OUT OF CONTROL, I KNEW SHE'D BE NEXT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
Oh!
MIA, LAST NIGHT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, WAS IT?
Pap
IT WAS THIS—
That's
Thump
Thump
Thump
A Mumbi doll!
MIA! WHERE DID YOU LEARN HOW TO MAKE THIS?
Ip
N-NO

ON A-A BLOG CALLED NETROMANCER
IT HAD STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS... WHAT MATERIALS I NEEDED TO USE, HOW TO ENCHANT IT WITH THIS SYMBOL
THE SITE SAID IT ABSORBS ANY HARM MEANT FOR THE OWNER EVEN ANOTHER PERSON'S ANGER.
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS REPLY TO THE WEBMASTER'S EMAIL ADDRESS.
A-AND IT WORKED! THERE WAS NO FIGHTING, NO HITTING, NO FEAR

I THOUGHT WE'D GO BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE
IT WAS EXACTLY WHAT I DREAMED UNTIL THE ACCIDENTS STARTED
ONE DAY THE BRAKE LINE IN MY PARENT'S CAR SNAPPED WITHOUT WARNING.
IT WAS THE DAY I WAS LATE TO MEET JOEL FOR DINNER
A FEW DAYS LATER, MY ADVISOR WAS NEARLY CRUSHED BY LOOSE CONSTRUCTION.
THAT SAME DAY HE HAD CAUGHT ME HANGING OUT TOO LATE WITH A FRIEND.
THE DOLL WASN'T SOAKING UP JOEL'S RAGE... IT WAS RE-DIRECTING IT.

TO BE BLIND IS NOT MISERY. NOT TO BE ABLE TO BEAR BLINDNESS, THAT IS MISERY.
MIA
SIGH
WHAT MAKES JOEL HURT OR CONTROL YOU DOESN'T GO AWAY BECAUSE OF THIS DOLL
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
Oh
Dammit! What is she thinking!?
How many potential cases are there? How many more deluded victims?
A website that delivers homemade curses...
Great! This is the last thing I need to hear!

That girl... Why!?
She can't rattle off 17th century poets, but she wants a voodoo doll to solve her abuse problems!
Ah! I think I can help her away from her destructive path and break the curse...
The tactic may be brutal, but it's for her own good
If I can just be sure how the Mumbi is choosing its victims
DEEP HONK
VRRR

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